



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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*Western District of New York*

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# PRESS RELEASE

July 9, 2003

## **RE: UNITED STATES v. EDWARD FEDORA**

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle and FBI Special Agent Peter J. Ahearn announced today the arrest of Edward Fedora, age 67 of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. A Criminal Complaint has been filed by the United States Attorney's Office charging him with violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 704, namely the illegal sale of a Congressional Medal of Honor. Fedora is also charged with making a false statement upon his entry into the United States, namely his failure to declare the Medal of Honor upon entering the United States on July 8, 2003. Finally, Fedora and his wife, Gisela Fedora, age 60, are charged with conspiracy to sell several Congressional Medals of Honor through the internet. If convicted, Edward Fedora faces a maximum possible term of imprisonment of five years in jail and a fine of \$250,000.00 while Gisela Fedora faces a maximum term of imprisonment of one year and a fine of \$100,000.00. Appearance by Edward Fedora on the charge occurred before visiting Magistrate Judge Victor Bianchini today where bail was set at \$50,000. It should be noted the fact that the defendant has been charged with a crime . . . it is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty (Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6)).

Assistant United States Attorney, Martin J. Littlefield stated the Complaint alleges that the defendants ran a business over the internet which included the attempted sale of

Congressional Medals of Honor which is prohibited under United States law. The Complaint charges that from their Mississauga business, the Fedoras advertised to American interest, the sale of at least two Congressional Medals of Honor for \$12,000 and \$30,000, respectively. The Complaint further alleges that the FBI conducted an undercover investigation which resulted in the purchase and acquisition of one of the medals on May 28, 2003 and culminated in the seizure of the other medal July 8, 2003 during a meeting with Edward Fedora in Buffalo, New York. The Complaint also alleges that when Fedora entered the United States on July 8, 2003, he failed to declare the Medal of Honor, denying that he had anything of value when he entered through the Peace Bridge. Gisela Fedora has not yet appeared on the charge.

The charges are the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation under Special Agent-In-Charge, Peter Ahearn, and the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement under Special Agent-In-Charge, Peter Smith, with the cooperation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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